

Montana Newsletter

Montana State Library

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News



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JANUARY 1990

Governor Declares First Montana Book Week

Governor Stan Stephens has declared the week of Jan. 21-28, 1990, Montana Book Week.

This is Montana's first official Book Week. State book weeks are affiliated with National Book Week, which runs the same week and is co-sponsored by the Library of Congress' Center for the Book and the National Book Awards.

Along with emphasizing the importance of reading and literacy, Montana Book Week is designed to highlight the role libraries play in providing access to the state's rich literary heritage.

A press release and a copy of the proclamation were sent to statewide media and to public libraries.

Big Horn Library Gets Bookmobile Grant

The Big Horn County Library in Hardin will be getting a new bookmobile thanks to a \$50,000 matching grant approved December 15 by the State Coal Board.

Library Director Sandy Watts said the community budgeted \$10,000 annually the past five years to fund the local part of the match.

The library's International bookmobile is 18 years old, Watts said, adding that a new one will take 9-11 months to build and cost approximately \$80-85,000.



Mary Doggett, newly elected chair of the Montana State Library Commission, visited State Librarian Richard Miller and the State Library staff on January 4. Doggett and her husband, Jeff, ranch near White Sulphur Springs. She is also a trustee of the Meagher City-County Library.

The new bookmobile would operate during the summer, while the current one runs nine months of the year, she said.

"We've had lots of good letters of support from county residents, Richard (Miller), and other library administrators," Watts said. "That's really helped us a lot."

ILL Checks Will Be Mailed In January

All libraries that submitted interlibrary loan reimbursement requests by January 16 should receive their checks this month.

As of press time (January 9), Mary Jane West at the State Library said 48 libraries had submitted nearly 8,000 requests, for a total reimbursement of almost \$44,000.

LSCA, Training Funds Deadlines Getting Close

Applications are available from the State Library for LSCA Title II funds and the ALA-accredited degree training program funds approved by the Library Commission.

Applications are due March 26 for the training program funds and March 28 for the LSCA funds. The training program will enable a Montana resident to attend an ALA-accredited program full-time, returning to Montana to work in a public or institutional library for at least two years.

LSCA Title II is a grant program for remodeling or construction of public library facilities.

For more information on either program, contact Diane Gunderson at 444-5349.



Roundup of Children's Book Week Activities

Here's how libraries across Montana celebrated Children's Book Week Nov. 13-17:

Prairie County Library, Terry: A book fair was held featuring a bookmark contest with winners in each class from K-6 receiving free books. The library also accepted overdue books with no charge during the week.

Bitterroot Public Library, Hamilton: Friends of the Bitterroot Library and Chapter One Bookstore celebrated with a book fair November 11. The bookstore had some of the newest children's books on display, and a portion of the money from sales was donated to the library.

Broadwater County Library, Townsend: "The Wonderful World of Books" was a program presented to two elementary schools during the week; librarians talked about children's books, how to care for books and presented a slide show called "The Man Who Called Down Owls."

Havre-Hill County Library: Fifth-grade students at Sunnyside School panned for gold with the help of librarian Susan Martenson. Martenson also talked to the students about authors and books of Montana.

Toole County Library, Shelby: The theme was "Reading is a Whale of Fun," and school librarian

Sharon Bashor gave children a whale bookmark to use. Librarian Heidi Aldford and Meg Feist turned the children's room at the library into a "castle" to mark the week.

Bozeman Public Library: The theme for the week was "Ready, Set, Read!" and featured a quilt display and talk plus a children's quilt square banner. MSU sent guest storytellers, and the librarians read their favorite children's book in the "cozy quilt" room and cake was served.

Poplar Library: Second- and third-graders made special bookmarks, and fourth-graders designed and created posters to celebrate the week. Elementary School Librarian Laura Haefer coordinated events for the city library.

Rosebud County Library: "Amnesty Days" on November 20 and 21 offered library patrons a chance to return overdue books without paying a fine.

Several other libraries celebrated the week by adding new titles to their children's sections: **Harlem Public Library; Big Sandy Public Library; Laurel Public Library; and Livingston Library.**

Bozeman Spends A Week Sans Television

A "Turn Off TV Week" was held in early September at the Bozeman Public Library organized by Children's Librarian Cindy Christin. Informal contracts not to watch television during the week were signed by 100 Bozeman adults and children, and the library sponsored events to help them keep to the bargain.

One night, families gathered at the library to play games and be serenaded by music; another night, four Montana writers read their works to adults. At the same time, local celebrities read stories to children.

Survival kits with suggested things to do instead of watching TV and ways to limit TV viewing

in the future were distributed to the participants.

Those surviving the week received an award and celebrated at a party.

New Butte Library Moves One Step Closer

The Butte council of commissioners on December 20 approved issuance of \$1.8 million in tax increment urban renewal bonds.

The majority of the money, \$1.03 million, will pay for renovation of the former U S West building at Broadway and Idaho streets to house the new Butte-Silver Bow Public Library.

Library in Whitehall Is Finally Completed

Five years of construction at the John Gregory Library in Whitehall finally ended this past summer.

Librarian Margaret Kieckbusch said the last thing to be finished was the heating system.

"Everything was donated except for \$624 in LSCA money (fiscal '89 Title II grant). That was the only money that was grant or tax money or anything," Kieckbusch said.



Bitterroot Library Gets New Head Librarian

Gloria Langstaff is the new head librarian at the Bitterroot Public Library. She began her new position in Hamilton December 4.

Before joining the Bitterroot Library, Langstaff had been a substitute teacher in Missoula and a bookmobile driver for the Missoula Public Library.

Libraries Join Collection Management Hall Of Fame

In recognition of the amount of work required to write a collection management policy and then implement it, the following Montana libraries have joined a Collection Management Hall of Fame for submitting their policies to the State Library:

Public libraries: Belgrade; Pearly Billings; Bozeman; Bridger; Henry Malley Memorial, Broadus; Butte-Silver Bow; Blaine County; Chinook; Colstrip; Stillwater County; Columbus; Conrad; Fairfield; Chouteau County, Fort Benton; Glasgow; Glendive; Great Falls; Bitterroot, Hamilton; Big Horn County; Hardin; Harlem; Havre-Hill County; Lewis & Clark, Helena; Garfield County, Jordan; Flathead County, Kalispell; Laurel; Lewistown; Lincoln County, Libby; Livingston-Park County; Phillips County, Malta; Miles City; Missoula; Plains; Sheridan County, Plentywood; Polson; Ronan; Roundup; Daniels County, Scobey; Sidney; Judith Basin County, Stanford; John Gregory, Whitehall, and Roosevelt County, Wolf Point.

Academic libraries: Ft. Belknap Tribal College, and College of Great Falls.

School libraries: Alberton; Dawson County, Glendive; Lambert; Lame Deer; Lima; Marion; Opheim; Roundup, and Seeley Lake.

While these libraries are to be congratulated, they should also note that collection management policies must comply with the latest criteria established by the Library Commission in order to be eligible for any grant. Call Sheila Cates at 444-5352 to make sure.

Report On FY '87 LSCA Title III Funds

Montana received nearly \$88,000 in LSCA Title III money during fiscal 1987, which was used for two projects: CD-ROM technology and

long-range planning for continuing education.

The greater portion of the nearly \$78,000 for the CD-ROM project was used to demonstrate the technology's effectiveness for Montana libraries.

The long-range planning project, funded for \$10,000, established a statewide continuing education committee that was appointed by the Library Commission.

A long-range plan for continuing education for professional, technical and clerical staff was developed and accepted by the Commission and the Advisory Council and is being incorporated in the state's long-range plan.



Center for the Book Proposal Submitted

Montana will become the 20th state affiliate of the Library of Congress' Center for the Book when the proposal submitted to the Center in December is approved.

Under the proposal, written by Debbie Schlesinger, chair of the organization committee, and Richard Miller, state librarian, Montana's Center would be housed at the State Library and have satellite centers at the Lewis & Clark Public Library in Helena, the Great Falls Public Library, Pearly Billings Library and Flathead County Library in Kalispell.

The Center's mission is to celebrate Montana's literary

heritage through the promotion of reading, study of the history of the book and the role of reading in today's society, the book arts, publishing and literacy.

Offline Winter Retreat

Offline, the special interest group for members of the Montana Library Association who are interested in library computer applications, will hold its winter retreat February 24-25 at Fairmont Hot Springs.

Frank Odasz, computer education professor and originator of the Big Sky Telegraph, will talk about telecommunications equipment, demonstrate bulletin board systems, discuss teaching knowledge access skills to K-12 students using Big Sky Telegraph and introduce telecommunications applications for rural communities seeking local economic development.

A workshop announcement including an agenda, costs and a registration form was sent to all MLA members in January. If you need more information, contact Raelen Willard, Offline Chair, Information Now, 1027 12th Ave., Helena, 59601, 443-0706.

UW Sponsors Workshop On Intellectual Freedom

A workshop exploring the relationships between community values and intellectual freedom will be held March 8 in Olympia and March 23 in Spokane.

Presenter is Susan Madden, former young adult services coordinator for the King County Library System in Seattle.

Cost of the workshop is \$75 for non-Washington librarians. For more information on registering, call Margaret Landrum at the University of Washington, 206-543-2300 x404, or Mary Moore at the Washington State Library, 206-753-2114.

Library Fundraises With Book On Havre's Homes

If your library is collecting Montana history, you will want the newest book about Havre.

"Havre's Historic Homes" has recently been published as a result of research gathered for the purpose of proclaiming a portion of Havre's downtown area an historic district.

The book qualifies as a documented reference for the history of the railroad, homesteaders and the City of Havre. It is 200 pages long, printed in bold type, and enhanced with work by Montana artists and professional photographs.

Copies are \$20 plus \$2 for postage and handling if the copy is to be mailed to your library. Checks should be made payable to Fort Assiniboine Preservation Board. Proceeds go to the board and the Havre-Hill County Library Foundation. Send orders to the attention of Ann Ritter, Havre-Hill County Library, 403 Third St., Havre, 59501, 265-2123.

Around The State

Public Library Changes: Gloria Langstaff, Bitterroot Public Library, Hamilton; Bernadine Fairfanks, Geraldine Branch Library (Lucille Carlson retired Dec. 1, 1989, after 17 years).

Calendar of Events

January

- 21-28 Montana (& National) Book Week

February

- 4-10 Literacy Awareness Week
6 Montana Library Services Advisory Council meeting, Helena
13 Federation Coordinators meeting, Helena
14 State Library Commission meeting, Helena
14 Happy Valentines Day!
24-25 Offline Winter Retreat (telecommunications for rural librarians), Fairmont Hot Springs



Stevensville Asks For Joint Library District

Stevensville officials have petitioned Ravalli County to create a joint library district that would provide a wider tax base to fund the Stevensville Public Library.

A public hearing was held January 2 to assess public opinion on the proposal. To stop the plan, at least half the property owners in the proposed district must object.

Job Notices Requested

The State Library is planning to keep announcements of open Montana library positions on file.

As a state agency, we are frequently asked what kind of openings are available around the state and have not had a consistent method of answering such requests.

Please send any job announcements to the attention of Darlene Staffeldt, Montana State Library, 1515 E. 6th Ave., Helena, 59620.

The announcements will be posted in the Professional Materials Center, which is maintained by the Library's Information Resources staff.

St. Ignatius Ponders Local Library Merger

The elementary, high school and public libraries in St. Ignatius would merge into a "media center" under a proposal being explored by the community.

High School Librarian Mary Anne Erickson said although a recent grant proposal to hire a grant writer to find money for the project was turned down, "we'll keep trying."

Supporters of the plan say St. Ignatius is too small to support three separate libraries and that merging them would reduce duplication, thereby cutting costs.

Montana State Library Commission

Mary Doggett,
Chair
White Sulphur Springs

C.K. Abramson,
Vice Chair
Missoula

Dr. Henry McGernan
Butte

Nancy Krevan
Helena

Marie Thompson
Billings

Mary Hudspeth
Libby

Dr. Ruth Patrick
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Commissioners' addresses are in the
Montana Library Directory

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Montana State Library

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